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(Suggested redraft of National Food Allotment Act. S. 1331)

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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Office of Distribution  
Washington 25, D. C.

A BILL

To improve the health, efficiency, and morale of the American people; to provide for a more equitable distribution of food supplies through a food allotment plan; to provide adequate outlets for surplus agricultural products, and assist in maintaining fair incomes to farmers; and to promote the full use of agricultural resources; and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS AND AUTHORITY

Purposes

Section 1. It is hereby declared to be in the interest of national security and the maintenance of the health, efficiency, and morale of the civilian population, and the morale of those members of the armed forces who have dependents among the civilian population, that the supplies of food currently available for civilian consumption be equitably distributed among the various sections of the Nation and among persons in the various income groups, and that the means of obtaining sufficient food for an adequate diet be placed so far as possible within the reach of every person in the Nation. It is further declared to be essential to the general welfare that such equitable distribution of food supplies and the maintenance of an adequate dietary standard be continued in the period of post-war adjustment, and that production and consumption of agricultural products be maintained at a high level during such period as a means of preventing potential economic dislocations resulting from

accumulation of undesirable surpluses of agricultural products and as a means of maintaining adequate farm income. It is further declared that the operation of the national food allotment plan, as provided in this Act, is a desirable and effective method of accomplishing the purposes hereinabove set forth.

#### Definitions

Sec. 2. As used in this Act-

(a) The term "Administrator" shall mean the War Food Administrator, or the successor to his powers.

(b) The term "household" shall mean one person who alone, or a group of two or more persons who at a common table, customarily consume food prepared by or for him or them in a home or noncommercial nonpenal institution. Households shall be classified for the purposes of this Act according to number of members and monthly income. Such income classification shall be according to \$10 intervals.

(c) The term "basic food allotment" shall mean the following amounts of food per person per week or the equivalent thereof in nutritional value and approximate cost as determined by the Administrator:

Milk, or its equivalent in cheese, evaporated milk, or dry milk, five and one-quarter quarts.

Potatoes and sweetpotatoes, three pounds, seven ounces.

Dry beans, peas, and nuts, eight ounces.

Tomatoes and citrus fruits, one pound ten ounces.

Green or yellow vegetables, such as green cabbage, kale, snap beans, and carrots, one pound nine ounces.



Other vegetables and fruit, two pounds six ounces.

Eggs, four (number of eggs).

Meat, poultry, and fish, one pound twelve ounces.

Flour and cereals, four pounds four ounces.

Fats and oils, fourteen ounces.

Sugars, sirups, and preserves, eleven ounces.

Provided that the Administrator may add to, or deplete, commodities listed, or may change quantities in the several categories if he deems such changes necessary or appropriate in view of new research in nutrition.

(d) The term "food-allotment coupon" shall mean a coupon, stamp, token, or other medium of exchange issued to an eligible recipient pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

(e) The term "household income" shall mean the total amount of money received by all persons in a household and available to pay the ordinary expenses of the household.

#### Establishment of the Food Allotment Plan

Sec. 3. The War Food Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to establish and administer a national food allotment plan in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Such plan shall provide for the issuance to eligible households, according to need, of food-allotment coupons of prescribed monetary values and in such manner and such form as may be approved by the Administrator. Coupons so issued shall be transferable by the recipient thereof to mercantile establishments registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act in exchange for food or food products of equal value at the prices currently prevailing in the establishment of the transferee and shall be redeemable at face

value upon presentation to the Treasury by any authorized transferee thereof.

Eligibility of Households

Sec. 4. (a) The determination with respect to the eligibility of households to participate in the national food allotment plan shall be made on the basis of the number of persons who are members thereof and their monthly rate of income. Individual households shall be certified only upon the voluntary application of a member thereof. A household shall be eligible to participate in the national food allotment plan and receive food-allotment coupons: Provided, That the Administrator determines that the household income is less than two and one-half times the reasonable cost of the basic food allotment of such households.

(b) For the purpose of determining eligibility and the value of coupons issuable, as provided in section 5 of this Act, the Administrator shall determine at least semi-annually the reasonable cost of the basic food allotment for households within each size classification. In such determination the Administrator shall make allowance for the value of foods which he determines are produced, or can be produced, by the household, and the reasonable cost of the basic food allotment shall mean the reasonable cost of additional foods needed to supplement foods which are produced, or which can be produced, by such household. The Administrator may, if he deems it necessary in order to effectuate the purposes of this Act of securing equitable distribution of food supplies, provide for regional differentials and for differentials

by size and type of community with respect to the reasonable cost of the basic food allotments. In determining the cost of the basic food allotment the Administrator may make special allowances for the special needs of vulnerable groups.

Value of Food Allotment Coupons Issuable

Sec. 5. (a) Each household certified as eligible shall be entitled to purchase at a price not to exceed forty percentum of the household income, food-allotment coupons of a value which shall equal the reasonable cost of the basic food allotment for a household of that size as so determined. In determining the prices charged for the coupons the Administrator shall consider the needs, and the abilities to pay, of various groups according to income, size of family, and similar criteria. The value of coupons to be issued for each period shall be adjusted to the nearest whole dollar; Provided that if the Administrator finds that the funds available for expenditure in accordance with the provisions of this Act are insufficient to meet the cost of providing coupons representing the reasonable cost of the basic food allotment for all eligible households participating in the plan, he shall establish a percentage of the reasonable cost of the basic food allotment which can be attained for all participants out of the funds available. In such case eligibility shall be limited to households with incomes of less than two and one-half times the established percentage of the reasonable cost of the basic allotment, and eligible households shall be allowed to purchase coupons of a value which equals the percentage of the reasonable cost of the basic allotment.



(b) In order that the increased food consumption be concentrated, insofar as practicable, upon those foods which are in surplus, the Administrator may require that a part of the coupons be used to buy specifically designated foods, or to buy any one of a group of foods; provided that not more than one-third of the coupons shall be so limited. At least two-thirds of the coupons shall be transferable to purchase any foods included in the definition of the Basic Food Allotment in Section 2 (c).

(c) Except for variations based on differentials authorized under section 4 (b) of this Act, all households of the same size and income classification shall be entitled to purchase, at the same price, food-allotment coupons of the same value. Except for adjustments to the nearest whole dollar as provided in subsection (a) of this section, in no event shall coupons be sold to any household of a value in excess of the reasonable cost of the basic food allotment for a household of that size as determined by the Administrator.

#### Discrimination Prohibited

Sec. 6. There shall be no discrimination against any household with respect to eligibility, classification, participation, or issuance or utilization of food-allotment coupons under the provisions of this Act by reason of race, religious creed, national origin, citizenship, political affiliations or beliefs, occupation, employment, or other tests, except as provided for in this Act and as necessary to insure general fairness and equity in the application of this Act.



Preservation of Standards

Sec. 7. No moneys herein or hereafter appropriated for the purposes of this Act shall be expended in lieu of Federal, State, or local expenditures customarily made for the direct benefit of households within the income groups found eligible to receive food-allotment coupons. Present standards for the payment, and payments, of social security and other types of assistance shall not be made less favorable to the recipients, or applicants for such assistance, by reason of the operation of the food-allotment plan.

Determination and Classification of Eligibles

Sec. 8. (a) Each applicant shall furnish such information with respect to the size and income of the household of which he is a member as may be required by the Administrator and necessary to the determination of eligibility and of the value of food-allotment coupons to which such household is entitled. In determining the income classification of a household income in cash and in kind shall be considered in accordance with regulations issued by the Administrator. When two or more adult members, other than husband and wife, contribute to the support of a household, an equitable portion of the income of any such member other than the natural head of the household shall be deemed to constitute income of the household in accordance with regulations issued by the Administrator.

(b) The Administrator shall establish appropriate procedures for appealing from the determination as to eligibility and the value of coupons issuable.

(c) The eligibility of each participating household and the value of the coupons to which it is entitled shall be redetermined and certified at least twice in each twelve-month period in accordance with rules and regulations issued by the Administrator.

#### Issuance

Sec. 9. Food-allotment coupons shall be issued in such denominations as the Administrator shall determine. The Administrator, or his designated issuing agents, shall issue coupons in such manner, and at such times and places, as the Administrator may determine, taking into consideration efficiency of administration and the convenience of those entitled to receive such coupons.

#### Redemption of Food-Allotment Coupons

Sec. 10. (a). The Administrator shall provide for redemption of food-allotment coupons exchanged for food and food products through the cooperation of the Treasury Department, the General Accounting Office, and banking institutions throughout the Nation. He shall designate banking institutions to accept coupons from sellers of food at retail and wholesale. Institutions so designated shall pay at time of presentation in cash or by credit to a demand deposit the full value of all coupons presented to them, except any amount which the Administrator in any particular instance directs the institution to withhold.

(b) The banking institutions accepting coupons as provided in subsection (a) of this section may present evidence of the deposit with them of coupons from persons authorized to redeem such coupons, together with appropriate voucher, to the Administrator or such other agency, including the Treasury Department, as the Administrator may call upon for

payment. Such voucher, together with evidence of deposit, shall be considered complete documentation for payment, and the coupons so redeemed may be reissued or delivered for reissuance by the banking institutions under regulations of the Administrator.

(c) The War Food Administration or such agency as is administering the funds, may advance moneys to banking institutions, where such action appears necessary, to provide funds for the redemption of coupons. Such advances shall be accounted for by such banking institution or institutions not less often than once monthly.

(d) The Administrator may contract to pay banking institutions designated to receive food-allotment coupons a charge determined by the Administrator to be reasonable for the services rendered in acting as such depository.

(e) Funds derived from the sale of food-allotment coupons shall be available for expenditure in accordance with the provisions of this Act and may be deposited into any appropriation provided under this Act, so as to be available for expenditure therefrom, in accordance with the terms of this Act, or may be deposited directly with banking institutions as advanced moneys pursuant to sub-paragraph (c) of this section.

#### Registration of Food Dealers

Sec. 11. The Administrator shall provide by regulation a simple method for the registration of mercantile establishments selling food and food products at wholesale or retail which desire to be authorized to receive food-allotment coupons in exchange for food and food products. Such registration shall constitute a privilege so to receive food-allotment coupons, which privilege shall be enjoyed until suspended or revoked by



the Administrator in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by him.

## TITLE II - ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 201. (a) The Administrator shall have authority to make such expenditures, not exceeding five percentum of the funds appropriated for the purposes of this Act, as he may deem necessary for the administration and enforcement of this Act, including personal services and rents at the seat of Government or elsewhere, printing and binding, law books, books of reference, directories, periodicals and newspapers; purchase, maintenance, operation and repair of motor-propelled passenger-carrying vehicles; payment to or reimbursement of other agencies or individuals for administrative expenses incurred by them.

(b) For the purpose of this Act, the Administrator is authorized:

(1) To utilize the facilities, services, and personnel of units and agencies within the Department of Agriculture; to establish regional and local offices; to enter into agreements with other public or private agencies or individuals; to utilize (pursuant to such agreements) the facilities and services of such agencies and individuals and to delegate to them functions under this Act; and to allocate or transfer funds to, or otherwise to pay or reimburse, such units, agencies, and individuals for expenses in connection therewith;

(2) To accept and utilize voluntary and uncompensated services;

(3) To employ in the District of Columbia and elsewhere such employees as he deems necessary in order to carry out the purposes of this Act.



(c) The Administrator may exercise any power, duty, or discretion vested in him under this Act, through such person or persons as he may designate.

(d) The provisions of section 3709 of the Revised Statutes shall not apply to the purchase of supplies by the Administrator where the aggregate amount involved does not exceed \$250, or to services of any value rendered by banking institutions or by agencies.

(e) The Administrator may, from time to time, issue such rules and regulations as he deems necessary or proper in order to carry out the purposes and provisions of this Act.

#### Investigation, Records, Reports

Sec. 202. (a) The Administrator is authorized to make such studies and investigations and to obtain such information as he deems necessary and proper to assist him in prescribing any rule or regulation under this Act, or in the administration and enforcement of this Act and the rules and regulations thereunder.

#### Educational Program

Sec. 203. As a part of the food-allotment plan, the Administrator shall provide, in cooperation with existing agencies of the Federal, State, or local governments, or private persons or groups, an educational program for improving the buying habits, food utilization techniques, and food preservation methods of the participants in the food-allotment plan.

#### Suspensions

Sec. 204. (a) The Administrator is authorized to suspend from

participation in the food-allotment plan any State or area, if he finds after due notice and opportunity for hearing that any agency of such State or area serving in the administration of this Act has (1) knowingly or wantonly violated any provision of this Act or of any rule or regulation issued by him under the provisions of this Act, or has knowingly or wantonly certified as eligible households not entitled to such certifications, or submitted inaccurate data with respect to size or income of households, certified, or made inaccurate certification of value of coupons to be issued, or issued coupons, or any instrument redeemable therefor, to a person or household not entitled thereto, or in an incorrect amount, and (2) is likely to fail to comply in the future with the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations issued by him, or to continue such improper certifications, submissions, or issuance.

(b) The Administrator is authorized to suspend from participation in the food-allotment plan any State or area, if he finds after due notice and opportunity for hearing that expenditures customarily made are being withheld, or that standards of payment or payments have been made less favorable, by such State or area, or by agencies thereof, contrary to the provisions of section 7 of this Act.

(c) No State or area shall be suspended in accordance with the provisions of subsections (a) or (b) of this section except by written order of the Administrator signed by him.

(d) The Administrator is authorized and directed to provide by rules and regulations for the suspension from participation in the

food-allotment plan of any registered food dealer, participating household, or banking institution found by him, or by any officer or employee designated by him to have violated any provision of this Act or of any rule or regulation issued by the Administrator. The determination of the Administrator concerning any such violation shall be final.

#### Counterfeiting of Food-Allotment Coupons

Sec. 205. Whoever shall falsely make, alter, forge, or counterfeit or cause or procure to be falsely made, altered, forged, or counterfeited any food-allotment coupon or coupon similar thereto for the purpose of obtaining or receiving, or of enabling any other person to obtain or receive, directly or indirectly, from the United States or any of its officers or agents, any money or other thing of value, and whoever shall transfer or utter as true, or cause to be transferred or uttered as true, any such false, forged, altered, or counterfeited food-allotment coupon or coupon similar thereto, with intent to defraud the United States, or any mercantile establishment, banking institution, or person, shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.

### TITLE III - MISCELLANEOUS

#### Reports to Congress

Sec. 301. The Administrator shall render semi-annual reports to Congress describing the operations of the food-allotment plan, including the following: Number of eligibles and participants, by the various classes of households established; the reasons for non-participation of



eligibles; effect of the food-allotment plan on the expenditure habits of participants; extent to which the plan increases purchases of foods of various types and other kinds of goods and services, for the various classes of households; benefits derived from the plan for the different types and groups of food sellers, wholesalers, processors, and producers; extent of improper use of food-allotment coupons; changes in relief payments, social-security payments, and other types of income of the various classes of eligibles; the amount and type of administrative expenditures incurred.

#### Appropriations Authorized

Sec. 303. The appropriation of such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized.

#### Territorial Applicability

Sec. 304. The provisions of this Act shall be applicable to the United States, its Territories and possessions, and the District of Columbia.

#### Separability Provision

Sec. 305. If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance shall be held invalid, the remainder of this Act and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

#### Short Title

Sec. 306. This Act may be cited as the "National Food Allotment Act."